



Docket: T2211-9059US01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: :
Philip James IONS et al. : Group Art Unit: 1742
Serial No.: 10/821,952 : Examiner: Scott R. Kastler
Filed: April 12, 2004 : Confirmation No.: 2378
For: DIRECT SMELTING PLANT :

McLean, Virginia
May 1, 2006

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME
FOR REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the outstanding Advisory Action mailed February 13, 2006 for the above application. Applicants Request a Three-Month Extension of Time to May 1, 2006 (April 30, 2006 being a Sunday) in which to file the RCE and this Preliminary Amendment. Checks to cover all the fees are enclosed. Prior to examination of the application, please amend the application according to the After-Final Amendment filed on January 31, 2006 and as indicated below.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin at page 13 of this paper.